Ways to Protect your Drinking Water

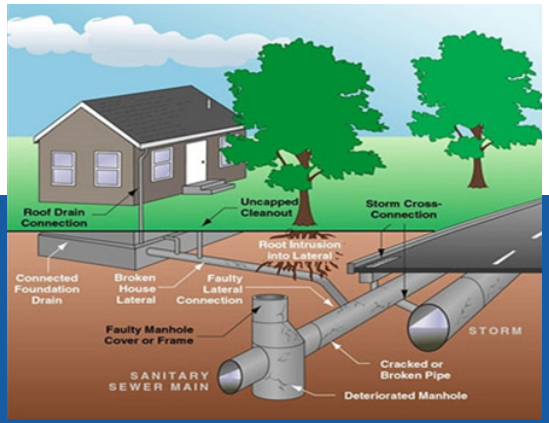
DO

- Educate others on the importance of backflow prevention
- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants
- Make sure dishwashers and water treatment equipment (water softeners) are installed with proper “air gap” devices
- Verify and install a simple hose bibb on all threaded faucets

Air gap must be a minimum of 1 inch above any drain or physical separation of 2X the faucet diameter

DON’T

- Submerge hoses in buckets, tubs, sinks, pools, ponds, or automobile radiators
- Use a hose to unplug toilets or sewers Connect household waste pipes to the sewer or drain pipes



Public Health & Safety

Did You Know...

Your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected?

The purpose of the local Cross-Connection Control Program, as required by state plumbing code and regulations, is to ensure everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.

It’s Public Safety

To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross-connection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all public water suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross-Connection Control Program involving public education, onsite inspections, and possible corrective actions by building owners.

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
www.dsps.wi.gov

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.wi.gov

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov

PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION: CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL FOR BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS

Antigo
“Antigo Area on the go”

700 Edison Street
715.623.3633
info@antigo-city.org
www.antigo-city.org

What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-Connections must be properly protected or eliminated.

How does contamination occur?

When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it left the treatment plant. Certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own drinking water. Water normally flows in one direction. Under certain conditions, water can flow backwards; this is known as Backflow. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: back siphonage and backpressure.

Backsiphonage

May occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a firefighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system.

Backpressure

May be created when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.

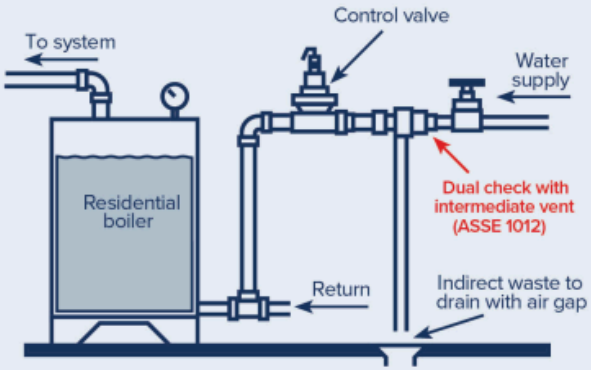
Avoiding Backflow Throughout the Home

Bathtub & Shower Fixtures

A hand-held shower fixture is compliant if:

- When shower head is hanging freely, it is at least 1" above top of the flood level rim of the bathtub
- Complies with ASSE 1014
- Has the ASME code A112.18.1 stamped on the handle

Boilers

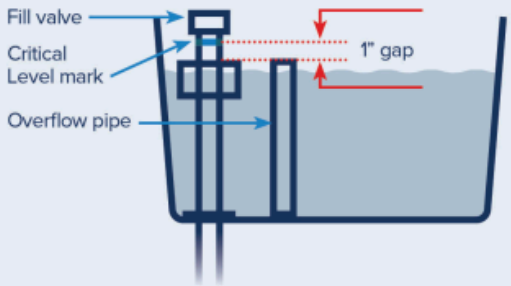


Boilers with chemical additives require an ASSE 1013 – Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly.

Toilet Tanks

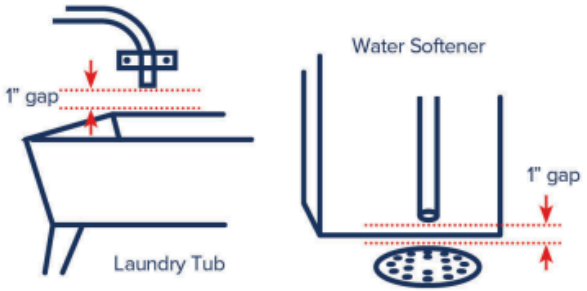
There are many unapproved toilet tank fill valve products sold at common retailers which do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

- Look for the ASSE 1002 standard symbol on the device and packaging.
- Replace any unapproved devices with an ASSE 1002 approved anti-siphon fill valve device.
- Verify overflow tube is one inch below critical level marking on the fill valve.



Elsewhere in the Home

Always maintain an air gap of at least 1 inch between the end of drain hoses and the highest potential water level.



Home Exterior

Verify all outside faucets are protected with a hose bibb vacuum breaker of the ASSE-certified types shown below.